Questions and Issues Raised at DFG's Proposed Demonstration Project Meeting

- Complexity of habitat within the ponds? More complex adds cost to construction.
- Funding this with Restoration funds?
- Condition of existing pumps, pipes and other infrastructure? Unused? Vandalism?
- Location options may involve existing habitat within Wister Unit.
- Objective to 'farm' fish or provide more normal habitat for birds? Covering the ponds with nets?
- Productivity VS sustainability for future Salton Sea habitat
- Use of 'fresh' water to evaluate future sea bird/fish interaction? Questions that can be answered are limited by water choice.
- Test invertebrate community composition?
- Timing issue related to Early Start Habitat (ESH) efforts? Pluses and minuses being ahead or behind ESH schedule. Would a couple years of data help if collected in advance of ESH efforts?
- Project lifespan?
- Clearly state problem, objectives to address the problems, and answer questions, i.e. berm design, construction techniques, etc.
- How do you transition lessons learned on these demo projects' scales (area) to larger areas anticipated at the Sea?
- Will these lessons be available for ESH implementation?
- Is one objective to provide habitat in addition to testing methods and community design?
- Lay out questions and which component will be designed to address them.
- Transferability of information is critical – If you use freshwater, since you won't have freshwater supply in the future, information doesn't transfer.
- Linking both sites for comparisons?
- Could you put freshwater into drains?
- Have you asked IID for the water you need?
- Has the water from the spring across the street from Wister been tested?
- Current water use by farmers is different than historic uses.
- Pumping water long distances requires lots of power. Where will it come from?
- Coordinate with ESH to use common pumping – pipes, facilities, etc. – when possible.
- Use of ponds to raise pupfish? New refugia?
- Consider nutrient manipulation at hatchery.
- Consider moving southern location to facilitate use of Alamo River water and longer drain laterals.
- USGS location was moved from preferred location due to drain interceptor issue
- Timing important to maintain adequate levels of rail habitat.

- Sustainability and productivity may need to be measured independently.
- Do the ponds actually mimic larger sites?
- Construction timing for hatchery and ponds?
- Six months to short to achieve equilibrium for invertebrate community. Full range of seasons needed. One year would be min. to set the clock
- How important is it to have variable salinity? Depends on what your questions are.
- Clearly describe what new information will be learned from this project
- Include role of this project in bird use (monitor use).
- Coordinate with existing demonstration projects (USGS, Torres) to answer maximum number of questions.
- Alamo River water to the hatchery – is there a way to do this?
- Modular approach – phased. Start with hatchery re-hab.
- Hatchery objectives drive the habitat objectives.
- Look into moving the hatchery closer to the Alamo River.

Agreements:

- Phased approach – hatchery first, someplace
- Alamo River or drain water representative of future water use availability to be used at hatchery
- Technical Group to design studies
- Coordinate with existing efforts (USGS, Torres) to build and compliment efforts.
- Water quality monitoring coordination potential funding for on-going projects as appropriate.
- Front load site design/permitting to jump start development of habitat sites
- Tech Group meet before this group re-convenes